

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	North Korea	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Opium Cultivation and Opium Smuggling	DATE DISTR.	20 December 1955
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PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information	

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. Opium is produced under government direction in specified acreages in North Korea in accordance with the Three Year Plan, as well as in isolated mountainous areas remote from government control. 25X1
2. There are state-controlled fields in Chagang Province and in the following areas of Yangkang and North Hamgyong Provinces:
 - a. Samsu (DA1963)
 - b. Hyesan (DA3905)
 - c. Kapsan (N 41-05, E 128-17) (DA4048)
 - d. Singwa (DA0581) (sic)¹
3. Raw opium is refined and prepared for medical use at the Sinuiju Pharmaceutical Laboratory² which is under the direction of the Ministry of Health. Morphine thus produced is distributed to hospitals throughout North Korea.
4. Opium smuggling usually is carried on between May and October, May, June and July being the months of greatest activity. The drug is transported to the Yalu and Tuman rivers by young women from 20 to 27 years of age, most of whom are war widows or daughters of professional opium smugglers. The women obtain rides on trucks and other vehicles, the drivers of which have often collected from 20,000 to 100,000 won for rides.³ Upon arrival at the rivers they sell the opium to raftsmen whose legitimate business permits them overnight stops along the coasts of North Korea and Manchuria. The raftsmen

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	X	AEC	X	Treasury (Narcotics)	X
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dispose of the contraband at these points, usually receiving gold in exchange.

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1. Comment. Possibly Simp'o (DA0582).

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Comments

2. The North Korean press stated on 29 April 1955 that 36 varieties of medicines and serums were being produced by the Sinuiju Pharmaceutical Factory.

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